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### Rudy Autio donates art work to start special ceramics collection at UM

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# University of Montana

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **RUDY AUTIO DONATES ART WORK TO START SPECIAL CERAMICS COLLECTION AT UM**

by Maribeth Dwyer  
UM News and Publications

MISSOULA--

The University of Montana will officially announce the creation of a special ceramic-sculpture collection at a meeting on campus this week of UM's Permanent Art Collection Advisory Board.

To form the nucleus of the collection, Professor Emeritus Rudy Autio will donate pieces from his personal collection. These include his own work and that of others. The collection will be exhibited this fall in the new Performing Arts/Radio-TV Center.

Sister Kathryn Martin, dean of the School of Fine Arts, says, "Rudy is doing this so that work started in Montana stays in Montana and is available for study in Montana."

Autio, an internationally celebrated ceramic sculptor, retired as head of the ceramics program in the UM art department in 1984. He joined the UM art faculty in 1957, after having worked in the early 1950s at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena with another Montanan, Peter Voulkos.

Garth Clark in his book "A Century of Ceramics in the United States: 1878-1978" called the 1950s "the decade of liberation." Clark said it was during this period that the American potter cut loose the shackles that had bound him to the manners and values of European art and design.

(over)



Autio--add one

Autio, who was born in Butte, was in the forefront of that development, which resulted in art that still drew on European and Oriental sources but bore the stamp of "made in America."

Autio's work also bears the stamp of his native state and region. Writing in American Crafts magazine, Matthew Kangas commented on light shed on Autio's work by "the landscape of Montana, the pioneering, independent spirit of the Pacific Northwest."

Autio's internationally honored work reflects his synthesis of ancient clayworking traditions, 20th-century art and the Montana landscape. A retrospective exhibition of his work closed a national tour in New York City in late fall.

He has worked in diverse media and has produced many different kinds of art. He has done three-dimensional murals for public buildings, churches, banks and libraries in Anaconda, Butte, Helena, Great Falls, Cut Bank, Bozeman, Chinook and Missoula. He has worked more recently on hand-formed, slab-constructed, brush-decorated stoneware pieces.

His latest project is in a medium new to him. He designed a wall hanging for the Performing Arts/Radio-TV Center. The hanging, which is now being woven in Finland, will be 30 feet long and 20 feet high at its center.

Autio will be guest of honor at a dinner Thursday hosted by UM President Neil S. Bucklew for the Permanent Art Collection Advisory Board.

Montanans on the board, listed by hometown:

ARLEE--Dana Boussard. BILLINGS--James Haughey. HELENA--Gayle Shanahan. MISSOULA--Robert Chaney, James Dew, Beverly Doyle, Jon Ellingson, James Garlington, Sandra Kelly, Margaret Mudd, James Todd, William Zader and Dean Martin. OVANDO--Cora Barbour.

(more)



Autio--add two

Other board members are Patti Canaris, El Paso, Texas; Ann Kallgren, New Canaan, Conn.; Nancy Fields O'Connor and Sondre Phelan, both of New York City; Ginger Renner, Paradise Valley, Ariz.; William Sherman, Portland, Ore.; Betty Schermer, Pleasant Valley, Iowa.

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NOTE: To arrange for an interview and pictures with Rudy Autio, contact Bill Brown or Maribeth Dwyer, 243-2522.